

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing today to add my voice to growing outcry over what amounts to a blatant breach of the public trust, and illegal in-kind campaign contribution, and an assault on democracy. They do not own the airwaves, as you know, and as such, they are obligated to conduct themselves in a manner that is beneficial, not detrimental to the rights of the public.

If Sinclair would like to air an "attack advertisement" against Bush, then they can do that, but they have to 1. pay for it and 2. identify it as such and not under the guise of journalism and 3. allow equal time for other view points as outlined below.

It really saddens and outrages me the abuses I see big corporations get away with everyday. You have the power make good on this. I implore you to block this attempt to skirt campaign laws to push a biased viewpoint on unsuspecting viewers in attempt to tip the vote in Sinclair's favor.

As I said, it is a free country. Sinclair can have their say, but they don't get it on my dime and they don't get to call it news, or documentary because it is not. It is a baseless attack on Kerry's record. This fact is proven by the fact that no other news outlets will air this biased and ugly smear campaign. If the story had merit, then other organizations would jump all over it.

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mark Ellis